

TIPPECANOE COUNTY TREASURER NEWSLETTER



October 3, 2008

Payment Plan Application & Payments

As most of you already know, November 10th will be the due date for all Tippecanoe County property taxes in 2008. The exception to this deadline is a six-payment installment plan for qualified taxpayers.

To qualify for the payment plan, the taxpayer must have a Homestead Credit on the property (owner occupied property tax deduction) and responsible for paying the taxes yourself. If an escrow company pays your taxes, you are not eligible to participate in the payment plan.

The due dates for the payments are the 10th of each month from November through April. This arrangement is for the 2008 property taxes only and will not carry forward for taxes due in 2009. An application must be completed in the Tippecanoe County Treasurer's Office by November 10, 2008. New payment coupons will be provided to the taxpayer to include with the monthly payments. These payments should not be sent to the address on the envelope included with the mailed bill, as these need to be processed in our office in downtown Lafayette. All delinquencies are due November 10.

When the statute to allow payments was written, only residential taxes were included. Residential taxes covered by the Homestead Credit, include one house, one garage, and up to an acre of land. Not anything beyond that is considered residential and therefore the taxes on this non-residential assessment must be paid by November 10. For example, the assessment on a metal shed in your backyard is non-residential so therefore the taxes on that metal shed must all be paid in full by November 10. When application is made, the coupons you will be provided reflect the correct amounts to be paid with the appropriate due dates.

Why can't we allow payments to all property taxpayers? Current Indiana statute allows payment plans for residential taxes only (IC 6-1.1-22-9.5). I know that properties with Homestead are seeing substantial decreases while other classes of properties are seeing increases. It really does not make sense to allow payments on properties seeing decreases and not allowing payments for properties with increasing taxes. However, that is the law.